

Lincoln

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THE LINCOLN FOUNDATION
Incorporated

Constituted

To encourage and promote the research for and
the preservation of historical matter relating to
Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the
United States

J. G. Thompson
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
1922

The half tone reproduction used as the frontispiece to this manuscript is from a newspaper cut owned by Herbert Wells Fay, a Lincoln collector of De Kalb. It was made in 1860 from an oil portrait executed earlier in that year by Thomas Hicks, N. A. The original was not painted from a photograph or a personal sitting. It was made to order by the direction of a committee for the purpose of correcting the impression that the nominee of the republican party was only a western rail splitter. The portrait first appeared upon a banner that was carried in processions at political rallies. The newspaper sketch was made from the banner by the same artist and was widely distributed throughout the east during the campaign of 1860.

MANUSCRIPT 1

CHARTER AND ORGANIZATION

The Lincoln Foundation was incorporated under the laws of Illinois June 22, 1922, to encourage and promote the research for and the preservation of historical matter relating to Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States. The charter was accepted by the trustees at their first meeting held at Springfield, June 22, of the same year. All incorporators were present. At the same meeting its constitution and by-laws were adopted and ordered printed.

CONSTITUTION OF THE LINCOLN FOUNDATION

ARTICLE I MEMBERS

The members of the foundation shall consist of the persons named in the Articles of Incorporation, together with such persons as they may associate with themselves, and their successors.

New members, whether as successors or those named in the Articles of Incorporation or otherwise, and such additional members as they or their successors shall see fit to associate with them, shall be elected by ballot, either at the annual meeting of the trustees or at a special meeting duly called for that purpose, by unanimous vote of the trustees attending such meeting. Any member may withdraw from the foundation by a notice, in writing, to the president or secretary. All the powers of the foundation shall be exercised by its members, and they may, by general resolution, subject to the provisions of this constitution and the by-laws to be adopted, delegate to other officers or to committees of their own number such power as they may see

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fit, in addition to the powers specified in this constitution and in such by-laws.

ARTICLE II

QUORUM

A majority of the members of the foundation shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the foundation.

ARTICLE III

TRUSTEES

The number of trustees by whom the business and affairs of the foundation shall be managed shall be the same as the number of members, and all of the members of the foundation shall be its trustees, and the election of any person as a member of the foundation shall constitute him a trustee.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

The officers of the foundation shall consist of a president, treasurer and secretary, together with such other officers as may be determined by the by-laws. These officers shall have the duties and exercise the powers assigned to them by this constitution or by the by-laws, or by resolution adopted pursuant to

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the authority of this constitution or the by-laws. At each annual meeting of the foundation or, in default of election at such meeting, then at an adjournment thereof, or at any meeting duly called for the purpose, the foundation shall elect by ballot a president, treasurer and secretary and it may choose such other officers as the by-laws shall from time to time provide. All the officers, whether elected or appointed, shall hold office at the pleasure of the foundation, but in no case beyond the time when their respective successors shall be elected and accept office.

ARTICLE V

PRESIDENT

The president shall sustain an executive and advisory relation to the work and policies of the foundation. He shall preside at all meetings of the foundation at which he shall be present. He shall appoint all committees unless otherwise ordered by the foundation. In his absence, the members of the foundation present shall appoint one of their own number to preside. In the absence or disability of the president he may by written instrument appoint a member of the foundation to discharge such of his duties as he may assign to such appointee.

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ARTICLE VI

TREASURER

The treasurer, subject to such regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the foundation, shall have custody of all papers and documents, the property of the foundation.

ARTICLE VII

SECRETARY

The secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the foundation except as otherwise provided in the by-laws or by resolution of the foundation. He shall give notice of and attend all meetings of the foundation, taking minutes of the proceedings and transcribing them in a book provided for the purpose, and attesting the same. Immediately upon the election and appointment of members, he shall give notice to them of their election or appointment. He shall have the custody of the corporate seal. He shall keep the records of all committees of which he is a member.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the foundation shall be held on the first Monday in January in each year. In

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addition to the annual meeting, stated meetings of the foundation shall be held on the first Monday in each calendar month thereafter in each year. All meetings shall be held at the office of the foundation in Springfield. The president or any three members of the foundation may call a special meeting of the foundation by not fewer than five days written notice given by the president or the secretary, or the members calling such meeting.

If any member of the foundation shall be absent from three consecutive stated meetings, such absence, unexcused, shall *ipso facto* be deemed a resignation of membership of the foundation and the vacancy so caused shall be filled as herein provided. Any member of the foundation may by writing or telegram appoint any other member of the foundation to act as his proxy at any one or more specified meetings of the foundation.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

The foundation may by by-laws provide for such committees and may delegate to such committees such power as it shall deem proper.

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ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the members present at any duly called meeting of the foundation, provided that written notice has been sent to every member of the foundation at least ten days in advance of the date of meetings, stating specifically the proposed amendment.

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BY-LAWS OF THE LINCOLN FOUNDATION

ARTICLE I

There shall be a standing committee of three members of the foundation who shall be the executive committee. The executive committee shall be elected by the foundation at the annual meeting by ballot. The executive committee may fill vacancies in its own number in the interim of the foundation meetings, reporting its action to the foundation at the next meeting.

The committee shall have and may exercise all the powers of the foundation when the foundation is not in session. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of two members. The committee shall elect its chairman and shall make such rules and regulations as, from time to time, it may deem proper for its own government and for the transactions of business of which it may have charge, which are not otherwise provided for.

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ARTICLE II

NOTICES

All notices required by these by-laws, or otherwise for the purpose of the foundation, shall be in writing and shall be either personally delivered or mailed to the members of the foundation at their addresses as entered in the office of the secretary of the foundation.

ARTICLE III

AMENDMENTS

These articles may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the members present at any duly called meeting of the foundation, provided that written notice has been sent to every member of the foundation at least ten days in advance of the date of meeting, stated specifically the proposed amendment.

APPENDIX

THE BIXBY LETTER

Executive Mansion,
November 21, 1864.

Dear Madam:

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

